THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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UP: Last phase of polling today

Voting for the seventh and final phase of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election will be held on Monday

54 constituencies

613 candidates
2.05 crore voters

NINE DISTRICTS
Varanasi • Mau • Jaunpur
Chandauli • Azamgarh
Ghazipur • Mirzapur
Bhadohi • Sonbhadra

EYES ON VARANASI
The main focus will be on Varanasi, where PM Narendra Modi camped for 29 hours to boost the party's prospects amid reports that popular sentiment is changing in this BJP bastion | P8

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Ukraine could cease to exist, warns Putin

Russian President said Ukraine could cease to exist as a state if its leaders "continue to do what they are doing". Ukraine's leader made a desperate plea to US lawmakers to help get more warplanes to his military

1.5 million

have fled Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion, with over half going to Poland, according to the UN refugee agency. Ukraine is the fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II, the world body said

Black market fears in Russia as sanctions bite

Russian shops are told to limit sales of essential items to counter black market speculation as sanctions bite. Meanwhile, over 1,000 people were detained across Russia on Sunday for protesting the attack on Ukraine

8 rockets

Eight Russian rockets destroyed a civilian airport in Vinnytsia in central Ukraine, Ukrainian president claimed. According to reports, at least three civilians, including two children, were killed by mortar fire near Kyiv

Bigger battle to save civilians

700 still stuck in Sumy as Operation Ganga to evacuate Indians enters its final stretch

People fleeing a conflict zone throng a train station in Dnipro in eastern Ukraine braving a harsh weather on Sunday to catch evacuation trains | AFP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE second attempt to evacuate civilians from the eastern port city of Mariupol failed on Sunday as fighting broke out, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The evacuation of civilians remains a big concern, especially from areas of Ukraine where Russian forces have been pounding. For India, the focus is on Sumy where some 700 Indian students are stranded whose fate is not known.

India announced the start of the last leg of its operation to evacuate Indian students stranded in Ukraine, as the conflict entered its 11th day on Sunday.

More than 13,300 students were brought back on 63 flights on Saturday. India has called on both Russia and Ukraine to observe a ceasefire so that students can be safely evacuated. However, the fighting has continued and a truce is yet to materialise.

The Indian embassy in Ukraine has asked all Indians still in the country to fill up an online form along with details of their current location.

"All Indian nationals who still remain in Ukraine are requested to fill up the details contained in the attached Google Form on an URGENT BASIS. Be Safe Be Strong," the embassy said in a tweet.

The locations mentioned in the form included Cherkassy, Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk and Lviv.

The Indian embassy in Hungary has asked all Indians staying on their own in that country to assemble at the Hungary City Centre in capital Budapest for evacuation.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin in a telephone call with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron blamed Kyiv for failed civilian evacuations from Mariupol. P7,9

(with agency inputs)

226 K'taka students still stranded in Ukraine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru, Hubballi

AS of Sunday, 458 Karnataka students have been evacuated from Ukraine and have reached home, while 226 students from the state are still stranded in the war-hit country, said Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority Commissioner Manoj Rajan on Sunday.

Twelve flights are scheduled to land in the country on Monday, he added.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who was in Hubballi, said the state government is in touch with Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to bring the stranded students back.

The government is getting information about the mortuary where the mortal remains of Naveen Gyana Goudar, a medical student from Karnataka who was killed last Tuesday, have been kept. Efforts are being made with the help of Indian Embassy officials to get Naveen's body back to his village Chalageri in Haveri district, Bommai said. P4

Belagavi's daughter-in-law flies AI evacuation flight

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

DISHA Mannur, a daughter-in-law of Belagavi, is being appreciated widely for her exemplary work in bringing Indians safely back from war-torn Ukraine.

Settled in New Delhi and working as a pilot for Air India, Disha was one of the five pilots who flew the AI-1947 flight from New Delhi to Kyiv, the capital city of Ukraine, on February 22 and evacuated 242 Indians.

Disha Mannur, née Gada, who hails from Bhuj in Gujarat, married Aditya Mannur, also a pilot, in 2015.

Aditya is the son of Belagavi-based Padmaja Prahlad Mannur, an active member of the Goregaon Karnataka Sangha and now residing in Mumbai.

This is not the first time that Disha has been deputed on a major operation. During the Covid pandemic, the couple flew aircraft to Hong Kong, Paris and Singapore to bring medical oxygen and to the US to bring medicines.

Disha, who is in Mumbai for a two-day aviation-related training, said, "I feel great that I was chosen for this operation. I feel good about doing something for the country, students and their worried parents. P4

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
1 DAY TO GO!
THINKEDU CONCLAVE
SASTRA

Black money

TIMELINES FOR PROBE

The Centre will bring in timelines for expeditious prosecution of cases involving undisclosed foreign income and assets | P7

NATIONWIDE	MAR 5	MAR 6
Fresh cases	3,961	3,471
Recoveries	11,651	9,754
Deaths	1009	758

KARNATAKA	MAR 5	MAR 6
Fresh cases	278	229
Recoveries	431	264
Deaths	3	3

5 killed

BSF JAWAN OPENS FIRE

A BSF jawan allegedly opened fire on his colleagues at a camp in Khasa near Amritsar on Sunday, leaving four dead and another injured, before falling to a bullet. The accused, Sateppa SK, hailed from Karnataka. It was unclear whether he was shot by someone or he killed himself | P8

Former NSE chief Chitra arrested by CBI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CHITRA Ramkrishna, former MD & CEO of NSE, was arrested by the CBI on Sunday night from Delhi. She was reportedly evasive during an interrogation by the agency.

Ramkrishna's anticipatory bail application was rejected by a CBI court on Saturday. The court had termed the charges against her as serious and grave.

The CBI had grilled Ramkrishna in a colocation scam in which officials of the National Stock Exchange were accused of allowing private brokers to install their servers close to the NSE servers gaining a mili-second advantage over competitors in algorithmic trading.

The CBI has registered a case in 2018 and has been investigating it since then. Recently, a SEBI probe too indicted Ramkrishna and other NSE officials in this scam.

The CBI, which has been going slow in the case, has swung into action after the SEBI investigation report was made public.

Ramkrishna's bail application, the CBI court had said, "Considering the overall facts and circumstances of the case and in view of the grave and serious allegations against theapplicant/accused as above, no ground for anticipatory bail is made out at this stage."

JOBS FOR 6,000

STATE CLEARS 48 PROJECTS WORTH ₹2K CR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS there have been concerns over job losses in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, here is a glimmer of hope. The Karnataka Government has approved 48 industrial projects worth Rs 2,062.21 crore that are expected to generate over 6,000 jobs in the state.

The 130th State Level Single Window Clearance Committee meeting, chaired by Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries Murugesh R Nirani, cleared seven large and medium-size projects with investment of over Rs 50 crore each. With a combined worth of Rs 1275.67 crore, these projects are expected to help generate employment opportunities for over 3,000 people.

Another 40 projects with an investment of over Rs 15 crore and less than Rs 50 crore too were given the nod. These projects worth Rs 724.87 crore are likely to provide jobs to 3,212 people. One more project with an investment of Rs 61.67 crore too was approved.

A total of 6,393 people will get jobs, stated a press release from the Industries Department.

Dr EV Ramana Reddy, Additional Chief Secretary, commerce and industry department; Gunjan Krishna, Director, Industries Department; N Shivashankara, CEO, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board; Doddabasavaraj, MD, Karnataka Udyog Mitra and others attended the meeting.

EXPRESS READ

Women's strength in CISF to be raised: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on Sunday said that the representation of women in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will be increased from the present 6% to at least 20%, in the near future. "We will increase it to take the male-female ratio to at least 80:20." Shah said during the 53rd Raising Day celebrations of the CISF in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.

One killed, 24 hurt in Srinagar grenade attack

SRINAGAR: An elderly civilian was killed and 24 others were injured in a grenade attack by militants in Srinagar on Sunday. Militants lobbed a grenade near Amira Kadal bridge in uptown Srinagar around 4.20 pm, when the area was abuzz with activity. The police said a manhunt has been launched in Jammu and Kashmir to track down the militants involved in the grenade attack.

It's housefull for India-SL day-night Test in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ALL the tickets available for the public for the first two days of the day-night Test between India and Sri Lanka, which will start at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday, were sold out on Sunday.

The excitement was high as cricket lovers in Bengaluru will witness an international cricket match after a gap of over two years, which were dominated by the pandemic. Fans stood in long queues outside the stadium to get hold of tickets for the second Test, which will be played with the pink ball.

The heat and long wait took a toll on a senior citizen, who fainted while waiting for his turn. The police personnel, who were deployed to control the crowd, rushed to his aid and revived him. They took him to the counter, got him tickets and also hailed an autorickshaw to send him home.

The tickets, which were up for grabs, both online (from March 1) and offline (March 6), were sold out in no time. Some of the fans did not get the tickets as the Karnataka State Cricket Association has limited the seating capacity to 50% as a Covid precaution. P5

Cricket lovers pose with tickets outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday | SRIHARI K M

India crush Lanka by innings & 222 runs

Ravindra Jadeja stood tall with his all-round brilliance as he complemented his 175 n.o. with 9 wickets in India's innings and 222-run win against Sri Lanka on Day 3 of the first test match in Mohali on Sunday | P11

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